Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 AID-20

NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

LAB-06 SIL-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 AGR-20 /199 R

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APPROVED BY AF - ROBERT S. SMITH

AF/W-MR. AGGREY

EB/ IFD/ ODF - MS. KIMBLE

EB/ IFD/ OIA - MR. ELLIS (SUBS)

AFR/CWA - MR. ELLIS

TREASURY - MR. GORDON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

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E. O. 11652: ADS

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, PFOR, GH, IBRD

SUBJECT: GHANA DEBT: CHAUFOURNIER VISIT

1. CHAUFOURNIER HAS INFORMED DEPT. THAT GOG PREPARED THOROUGHLY FOR HIS VISIT, DURING WHICH HE MET WITH ACHEAMPONG AND OTHER NRC MEMBERS, AS WELL AS WITH ECONOMIC CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMITTEE AND KEY ECONOMIC FIGURES, INCLUDING NIKOI, FORDWOR, AND SOLICITOR GENERAL ASANTE. ACHEAMPONG EMPHASIZED DESIRE MOVE FORWARD SWIFTLY TO SETTLEMENT WITH CREDITORS AND SAID GOG WOULD NOT JEOPARDIZE SETTLEMENT BY INSISTING ON MAINTAINING ITS POSITION ON PERIPHERAL ISSUES, E. G. FORMAT FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH CREDITORS, IF AGREEMENT ON BASIC ISSUES IN SIGHT. ACHEAMPONG INSISTS FIVE YEAR GRACE PERIOD INSUFFICIENT PERMIT RESTRUCTURING OF ECONOMY NEEDED OVERCOME BASIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, REPAY SHORT TERM DEBTS, ETC. ACHEAMPONG CONTENDS LONGER TERM REPAYMENT PERIOD JUSTIFIED BY BURDEN POSED BY TOTAL MEDIUM AND LONG TERM DEBT SERVICE. ALTHOUGH GOG EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR 2 PERCENT INTEREST RATE, CHAUFOURNIER BELIEVES RATE IS LEAST IMPORTANT OF RESCHEDULING TERMS IN GHANAIAN OPTIC.

2. GHANAIANS ARE PREPARED SUBMIT ALL DISPUTED CONTRACTS TO ARBITRATION, INCLUDING FOUR SUBJECT FEBRUARY 5 REPUDIATION. MOREOVER, GHANAIANS ARE ACCELERATING EXAMINATION OTHER CONTRACTS. THEY INTEND COMPLETE THIS EXAMINATION PRIOR DEBT SETTLEMENT, THUS INSURING CREDITORS THAT VALIDITY

OTHER CONTRACTS WILL NOT BE CALLED INTO QUE2 TION AFTER SETTLEMENT. PRESENT TIMETABLE CALLS FOR CO PLETION EXAMINATION WITHIN THREE MONTHS, BUT THIS WOULD BE ACCELERATED, IF SETTLEMENT APPEARED IMMINENT.

- 3. ACHEAMPONG AND OTHERS SHOWED SURPRISING INTEREST IN PRIVATE INVESTMENT, STATING THIS AMONG REASONS UNDERLYING THEIR DESIRE FOR RAPID SETTLEMENT. GHANAIANS STATED REPEATEDLY THAT EMPHASIS ON SELF- HELP DOES NOT MEAN GHANA WISHES QUOTE GO IT ALONE UNQUOTE. PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES TOLD CHAUFOURNIER GHANAIAN BUSINESSMEN INCREASINGLY WORRIED BY ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN AND ACHEAMPONG HAS BEEN MADE AWARE OF THEIR CONCERN.
- 4. GHANAIANS SAID THEY STILL PREFER BILATERAL TALKS, AS SOME EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES IN ACCRA HAVE ADVISED GOG IT IS LIKELY GET BETTER TERMS FROM SOME CREDITORS IN DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS. CHAUFOURNIER TOLD GOG SUCH ADVICE MISLEADING, AS SOME CREDITORS PERSUADED ONLY RELUCTANTLY TO SUPPORT NOVEMBER OFFER, AND ANY BREACH OF CREDITOR SOLIDARITY HIGHLY UNLIKELY. AS NOTED ABOVE, ACHEAMPONG CONFIDENTIAL

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SAID THIS WOULD BE AMONG ISSUES NOT ALLOWED TO STAND IN

WAY OF NEGOTIATIONS, IF SETTLEMENT APPEARED POSSIBLE.

5. WHEN GHANAIANS STATED BELIEF INDONESIAN TERMS APPROPRATE, CHAUFOURNIER REPLIED GHANA'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS MUCH MORE FAVORABLE THAN THOSE OF INDONESIA AT TIME OF RESCHEDULING AND GHANAIANS NOT BEONSTRATING UNDERSTANDING EXPECTED. NEGATIVE PERSONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD BRITISH OF KEY GHANAIANS CLEARLY CONTRIBUTING TO ESTRANGEMENT BE TWEEN GHANAIANS AND BRITISH. ROGERS

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: EAID, EFIN, PFOR, GH, IBRD To: ACCRA

BERN **BONN BRUSSELS** LONDON OSLO **PARIS**

ROME
THE HAGUE
TOKYO
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